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A NEW SPECIES OF LACTUCA (ASTERACEAE) FROM KASHMIR, INDIA¹

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(With four text-figures)

Lactuca kashmiriana sp. nov., a new species allied to L. decipiens Clarke is described.

During the course of a revision of the subtribe *Lactuceae* in India, we examined some specimens which showed affinities to *Lactuca decipiens* Clarke in general habit of plant but on critical examination of specimens both at BSD and DD, proved that the specimens were of a new species, which is described here.

Lactuca kashmiriana sp. nov.

L. decipienti Clarke affinis, sed differt bracteis involucralibus exterioribus perbrevioribus, bracteis involucralibus interioribus ad centrum fuscatis cum marginibus hyalinis; acheniis gradatim angustatis ad rostrum longum cum costis regularibus manifestis in doubus lateribus.

Herba perennis. Caulis ca 60-80 cm altus, erectus, glaber, sursum paniculatim ramosus. Folia ca $4-5 \times 3-5$ cm., numerosa e basi ad medium caulis, cum foliis minoribus ad axillas foliorum latiorum, folia inferiora et supramediana cum petiolis longis alatisque, membranacea, cordata vel deltoidea, varie dentata, sagittata vel auriculata, suprema acute serrata, ovata vel hastata. Inflorescentia paniculatim ramosa. Capitula ca 13-14 x 1-2.5 mm in ramis terminalibus, cernuis, angustis, cylindricis, 2-3 floris, pedunculus parvus, gracilis, glaber, nutans, flosculus ligulatus, ligula purpurea vel azurea. Bracteae involucrales exteriores ca 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 mm, ovatae, bracteae involcurales interiores 5, aeguales, ca 13-14 x 2-2.5 mm, perangustati, lineari-lanceolati, glabri vel setosi, cum centro fuscato, marginibus hyalinis, quam bracteis exterioribus perlongiores. Achenia ca 6-6.5 mm longa, oblanceolata, gradatim angustata ad rostrum longum; costae regulares, manifesti, cum costa mediana conspicua in uno latere, 11-12 costata in altere latere, angustata ad uterque extremitates quam centro, glabra, pallide luteo brunnea. Pappus ca 4-5 mm, pallide albida.

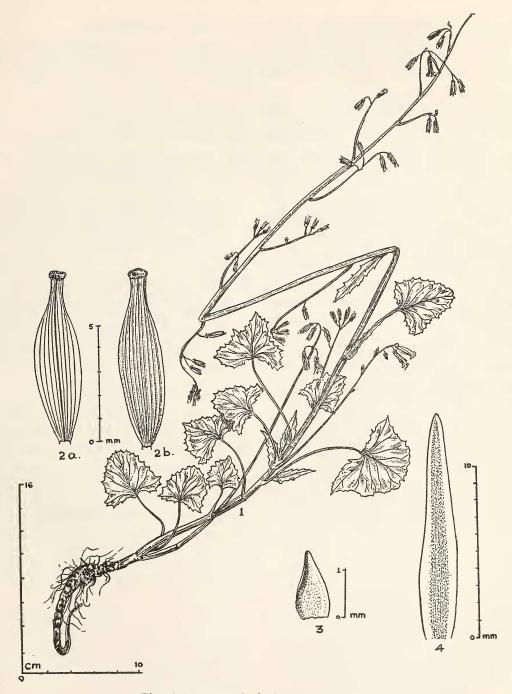
Holotypus lectus: INDIA: Kashmir: Degwan B. M. Wadhwa 67012A et positus in CAL.

Lactuca kashmiriana sp. nov.

Allied to Lactuca decipiens Clarke, but

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Figs. 1-4. Lactuca kashmiriana sp. nov. 1. Habit; 2. (a) Achene (ventral side); 2. (b) Achene (dorsal side); 3. Outer involucral bracts; 4. Inner involucral bracts.

differs in having much smaller outer involucral bracts, inner involucral bracts dark in the centre with hyaline margins; achenes gradually narrowed to a long beak with distinct and regular ribs on both sides.

Perennial herbs. stem c. 60-80 cm high, erect, glabrous paniculately branched above. Leaves c. 4-5 x 3-5 cm many from base to middle of the stem mixed with number of smaller leaves at the axils of broader leaves. lower and upper middle leaves with long and winged petiole, membranous, cordate or deltoid, variously toothed, sagittate or auricled, upper most sharply serrate, ovate or hastate. Inflorescence paniculately branched. Heads c. $13-14 \times 1-2.5$ mm, on terminal branches drooping, narrow, cylindric, 2-3 flowered, peduncle small, slender, glabrous, nodding, florets all ligulate, ligule purple or blue. Outer involucral bracts c. 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 mm ovate, inner involucral bracts 5, equal c. 13-14 x 2-2.5 mm linear lanceolate, much narrowed glabrous or bristly hairy with darker centre and hyalined margins, much longer than the outer bracts. Achenes c. 6-6.5 mm long oblanceolate gradually narrowed to a long beak, ribs regular, distinct with a conspicuous mid rib on one side, 11-12 ribbed on other side, narrowed at both ends from the middle, glabrous, pale yellowish brown slightly larger than the pappus c. 4-5 mm pale whitish.

Fls. & Frts.: September.

Specimen studied: Holotype: India, Kashmir: Degwan B. M. Wadhwa 67012A (CAL); Isotype B. M. Wadhwa 67012B (BSD).

Remarks: Erect perennial herbs, florets purple or blue. This species is very distinct from all other species of *Lactuca* but shows slight resemblances to *L. decipiens* Clarke; however it can be separated as follows.

- B. Outer involucral bracts c. 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 mm all equal much smaller than the inner one; inner involural bracts very narrow glabrous or sparsely bristly hairy with dark centre and hyaline margins. Achenes gradually narrowed in to a long beak, glabrous, ribs distinct regular, vellowish brown. Lactuca kashmiriana

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